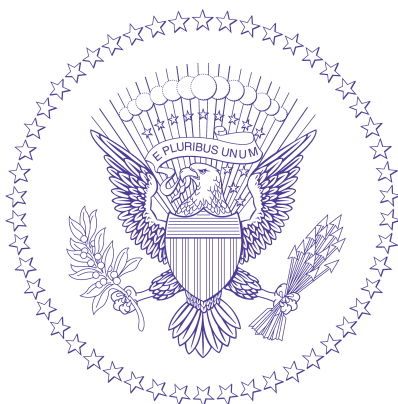


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

George W. Bush



2007

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2007



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Foreword

This volume collects my speeches and papers from the first half of 2007.

At the beginning of the year, I delivered an address to the Nation in which I announced a bold new strategy for victory against the terrorists and insurgents in Iraq. I ordered a surge of more than 20,000 additional American troops with a clear mission: to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, protect the local population, and help ensure that the Iraqi forces left behind were capable of providing the security their country needed.

I told the American people “Victory will not look like the ones our fathers and grandfathers achieved. There will be no surrender ceremony on the deck of a battleship. But victory in Iraq will bring something new in the Arab world—a functioning democracy that polices its territory, upholds the rule of law, respects fundamental human liberties, and answers to its people. A democratic Iraq will not be perfect. But it will be a country that fights terrorists instead of harboring them—and it will help bring a future of peace and security for our children and our grandchildren.”

Throughout these months, my Administration installed talented new leaders to shepherd our new strategy in Iraq and wage the wider War on Terror. In January, I appointed General David Petraeus as the new Commanding General of the Multi-National Force in Iraq. In February, Michael McConnell became the Nation’s second Director of National Intelligence. And in June, I nominated Admiral Michael Mullen to become the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As our new strategy began to demonstrate promising results, I insisted that the Congress not substitute its judgment for that of our commanders in the field. In April, the new Democratic majorities in the House and Senate passed a supplemental spending bill for the war in Iraq that mandated timetables for troop withdrawal, limited the flexibility of our commanders in combat, and appropriated billions of dollars to projects unrelated to the War on Terror. I vetoed this bill and insisted that the Congress pass responsible legislation that would give our troops in the field all of the resources they needed to achieve victory.

While we continued to focus on defeating our enemies, the United States also remained engaged with our allies around the world. In March, the First Lady and I visited Latin America, traveling to Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico to discuss advancing the cause of social justice in the region. In April, I hosted German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Union President Jose Barroso for the U.S.-E.U. Summit in Washington. In May, I welcomed Great Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II to a State Dinner at the White House. The Queen’s visit coincided with the 400th anniversary of the British arrival at Jamestown, Virginia—America’s first permanent settlement. And in June, Laura and I attended the G-8 Summit in Ger-

many and toured Europe, visiting with leaders in the Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, and the Vatican.

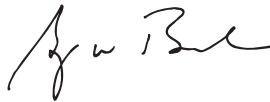
During this time, we also focused on important domestic priorities. In my State of the Union Address in January, I urged the Congress to support greater energy independence by pursuing the goal of reducing America's gasoline usage by 20 percent in 10 years. I called on the Congress to reform the tax code to make health insurance more affordable, as well as to financially support State governments providing health care for the poor and hard-to-insure. I continued to press the case for comprehensive immigration reform that would address the problem of illegal immigration and create a system that was both secure and fair.

In addition to this forward-looking agenda, my Administration also continued to hold the line on legislation that threatened America's deepest moral values. When the Congress once again sent me a bill that would have compelled American taxpayers to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos, I vetoed it.

Finally, this was a time when America paused to mourn. In January, I attended the funeral of President Gerald Ford, who died at his home in California at the age of 93. In April, I had the sad task of speaking to a convocation at Virginia Tech University, where students gathered to grieve 32 victims of an on-campus shooting. And in June, I spoke at the dedication of a new memorial in Washington to the victims of communism.

As I reflected on the similarities between the struggle against communism and the modern totalitarian threat of radical Islam, I told the assembled crowd, "Like the Communists, the followers of violent Islamic radicalism are doomed to fail. By remaining steadfast in freedom's cause, we will ensure that a future American President does not have to stand in a place like this and dedicate a memorial to the millions killed by the radicals and extremists of the 21st century."

As we moved into the second half of 2007, my Administration remained vigilant to ensure that this pledge would be fulfilled.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Bush" clearly distinguishable.

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 43d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 1–June 30, 2007. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. At the request of the Office of the Press Secretary, the Bush property known as Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas, is referred to simply as the Bush Ranch. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of

the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and William J. Clinton are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Michael L. White, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit. The Chief Editor of this book was Stacey A. Mulligan, assisted by William K. Banks, Loretta F. Cochran, Lois Davis, Kathleen M. Fargey, Joseph G. Frankovic, Stephen J. Frattini, Michael J. Forcina, Allison M. Gavin, Gwendolyn J. Henderson, Diane Hiltabidle, Alfred Jones, Joshua H. Liberatore, Heather N. McDaniel, Ashley Merusi, Amelia E. Otoo, Jennifer M. Partridge, D. Gregory Perrin, Matthew R. Regan, Michael J. Sullivan, and Joseph K. Vetter.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of William J. Boarman, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

David S. Ferriero
Archivist of the United States

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